

develop and market this to the tourism industry should continue. The Office of State Parks should cluster this site with Lake Fausse Pointe State Park and the proposed Atchafalaya Wilderness Center State Preservation Area. These facilities should be promoted as a group of related areas which access the rich culture and natural resources of South Louisiana. Both the facilities and the programming need further development. Promotion of this identified cluster of Office of State Parks' holdings would be a key tourism draw for the region.

**ACTION : Continue the development of facilities and programming at Longfellow-Evangeline State Commemorative Area as master planned.**

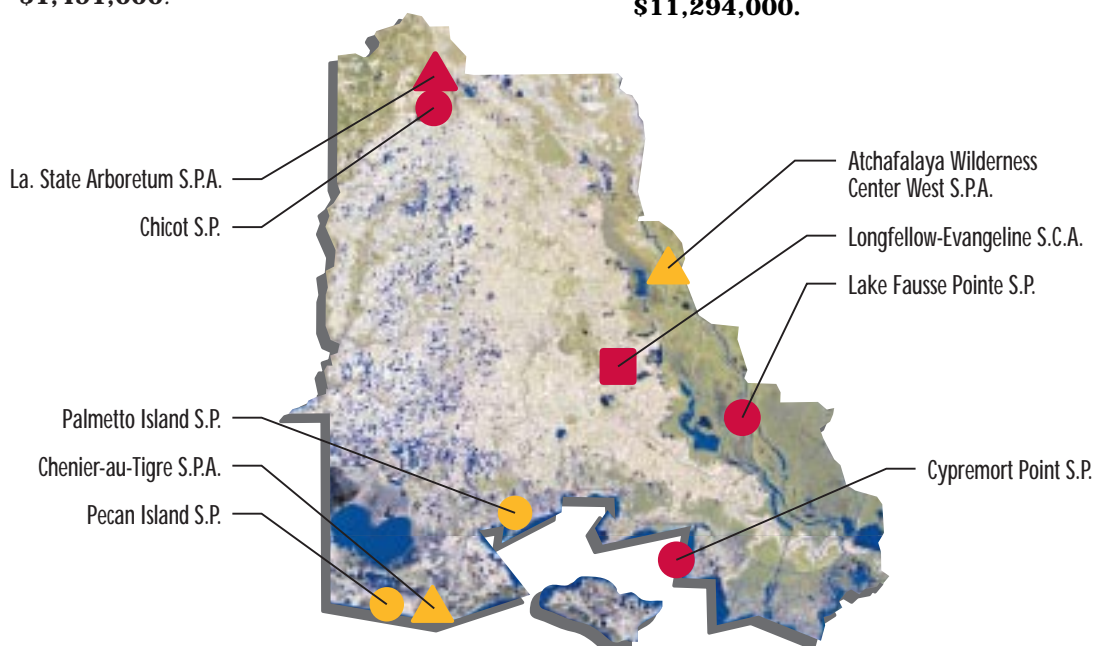
*The estimated cost for completion of the recommendations at the existing state commemorative area in Region Four is **\$1,491,000**. There are no new state commemorative areas proposed for Region Four. The estimated total acquisition and development cost of the proposed improvements for the state commemorative areas, existing and proposed, in Region Four is **\$1,491,000**.*

## STATE PRESERVATION AREAS

The Action Plan recommends the development of two state preservation areas in Region Four during the next fifteen years. Both of the sites, **Chenier-Au-Tigre** and the **Atchafalaya Wilderness Center State Preservation Area West** are currently undeveloped holdings. **Chenier-Au-Tigre** is a coastal site representing coastal marshes and deltaic plains. It provides access to the vast wetland resources of the area. The concept for the **Atchafalaya Wilderness Center West** will be an ecotourism draw that will interpret the Atchafalaya Basin's cypress bottomland swamp habitat, provide day use and programming for visitors, and orient visitors to other natural areas such as Lake Fausse Pointe State Park. The site should introduce the Atchafalaya Basin to visitors and will link many facilities into a unified Atchafalaya Basin / Cajun theme.

**ACTION : Develop the two existing state preservation areas in Region Two.**

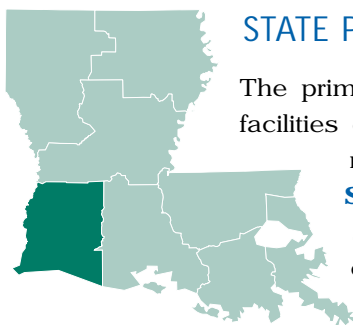
*The estimated cost for completion of the recommendations at the proposed state preservation area in Region Four is **\$11,294,000**.*



**Figure VIII. - REGION FOUR FACILITIES**

● ■ ▲ Existing  
● ■ ▲ Undeveloped or Proposed

## Region Five



### STATE PARKS

The primary focus here is to complete the facilities outlined in the master plan at this region's only existing state park, **Sam Houston Jones**. This park services the population well. It is centrally located and has good access. The close proximity of the park to Interstate 10 makes it a good facility to draw vacationers and "rovers" as they travel the east-west corridor. This region, particularly along the coast, has great potential for nature-based ecotourism. Efforts to make **Sam Houston Jones State Park** a center for coordinating these activities should be made to capture a segment of this growing market. Its development as part of an ecotourism-oriented cluster will aid in capturing even more of this market.

#### **ACTION : Develop one new state park in Region Five.**

The Action Plan calls for the development of an accessible site along the coastline east of the Calcasieu River and west of Rockefeller Refuge. This proposed site should be accessible via Highway 82 from Lake Charles and Lafayette. It would complete the series of coastal recreational and educational resources spanning the entire coast from Plaquemines Parish to Cameron Parish.

*The estimated cost for completion of the recommendations at existing state parks in Region Five is **\$8,883,750**. The estimated acquisition and development cost for the proposed new state parks in Region Five is **\$10,718,000**. The estimated total acquisition and development cost of the proposed improvements for the state parks, existing and proposed, in Region Five is **\$19,601,750**.*



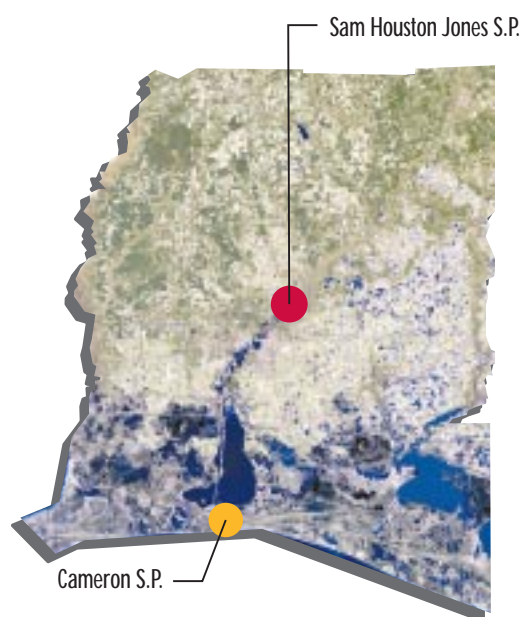
*Sam Houston Jones State Park*

### STATE COMMEMORATIVE AREAS

There are no existing or proposed state commemorative areas in Region Five.

### STATE PRESERVATION AREAS

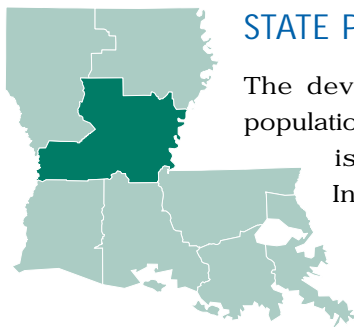
There are no existing or proposed state preservation areas in Region Five.



**Figure IX. - REGION FIVE FACILITIES**

- Existing
- Undeveloped or Proposed

## Region Six



### STATE PARKS

The development of a site to service the population of Alexandria and its surroundings is needed. A state park close to Interstate 49 would be desirable to attract travelers from this transportation corridor. The park, once developed, should complement National Forest activities in the area. Hiking could be promoted in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service trails in this region. Recreational services provided by the Office of State Parks should branch into other areas such as water-based activities not currently provided for in this region.

#### **ACTION : Develop one new state park in Region Six.**

The Action Plan calls for the development of one state park in Region Six over the next fifteen years. There are already United States Forest Service and United States Department of Agriculture and Forestry recreational facilities at many of the best natural resources in the region. The location of a new state park should not compete with these areas. The Office of State Parks-owned Larto Lake site is remote and of questionable quality and should remain undeveloped. Other potential resources in the region are the Red River Oxbow Lakes or Lake Rodemacher. These areas should be considered for development of this new state park.

*There are no existing state parks in Region Six. The estimated acquisition and development cost for the proposed new state park in Region Six is \$9,240,250.*



### STATE COMMEMORATIVE AREAS

The recommendations for Region Six include the promotion of **Marksville State Commemorative Area** as a nationally recognized Native American burial site for educational and archeological purposes and the acquisition of a new potential site. The Office of State Parks should acquire the **Southern Forest Heritage Museum and Research Center** and develop it as a state commemorative area representing the lumber industry of Louisiana. The site is an 1892 sawmill town which is on the National Register of Historic Places. It captures a piece of American history that has nearly vanished and is unrepresented in the Louisiana State Parks System.

#### **ACTION : Continue the development and promotion of Marksville State Commemorative Area and acquire and develop the Southern Forest Heritage Museum and Research Center as a new state commemorative area.**

*The estimated cost for completion of the recommendations at the existing state commemorative area is \$1,573,200. The*



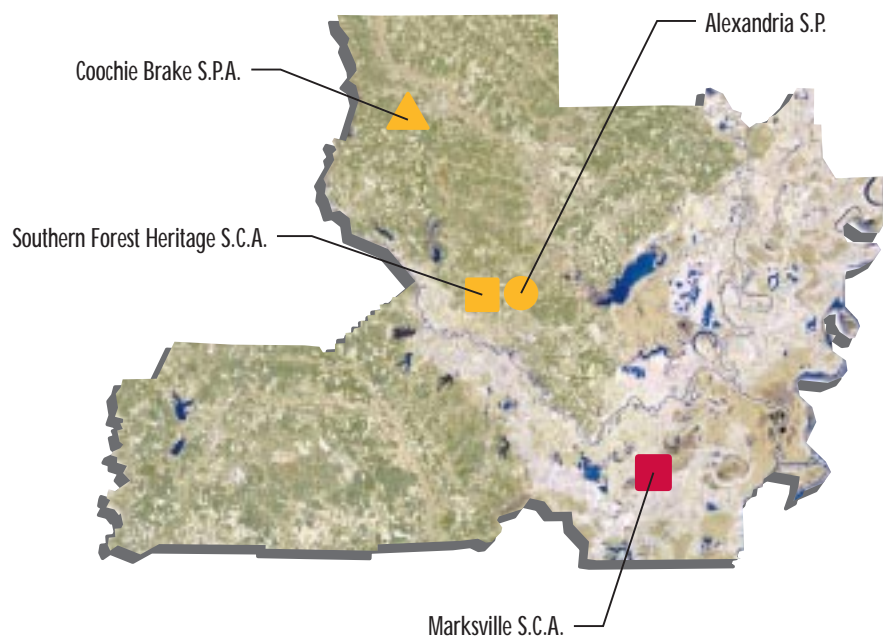
estimated acquisition and development cost for the proposed new state commemorative area in Region Six is **\$2,703,000**. The estimated total acquisition and development cost of the proposed improvements for the state commemorative areas, existing and proposed, in Region Six is **\$4,276,200**.

**ACTION : Develop the site as master planned with modifications as noted.**

The estimated cost for completion of the recommendations at the proposed state preservation area in Region Six is **\$2,254,000**.

## STATE PRESERVATION AREAS

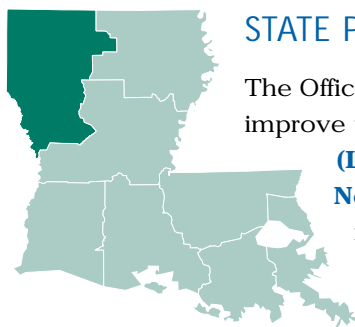
The Action Plan recommends the development of one state preservation area in Region Six during the next fifteen years. The **Coochie Brake** site is an existing holding representing the cypress tupelo swamp and major alluvial bottoms. The site will provide interpretive facilities and programming, as well as facilitate the management of the natural area.



**Figure X. - REGION SIX FACILITIES**

- ■ ▲ Existing
- ■ ▲ Undeveloped or Proposed

## Region Seven



### STATE PARKS

The Office of State Parks should maintain and improve the existing state parks in the region (**Lake Bistineau, Lake Claiborne** and **North Toledo Bend**) according to the master plans. The development of **South Toledo Bend State Park** is recommended as master planned. The development of creative programming and support facilities at existing parks is the most important recommendation being made. Since the parks are accessible by major transportation corridors, including Interstate 20 and Interstate 49, efforts should be made to increase the appeal to tourists. Camping opportunities exist in the area, so emphasis should be placed on the development of cabins rather than tent or trailer camping.

**ACTION :** Supplement the facilities at the existing state parks and develop the South Toledo Bend Site as master planned.

The Action Plan calls for the purchase of no new sites in this region over the next fifteen years. The **South Toledo Bend** Site should be developed.

*The estimated cost for completion of the recommendations at existing state parks in Region Seven is **\$30,753,875**. There are no new state parks proposed in Region Seven.*

### STATE COMMEMORATIVE AREAS

This region has five state commemorative areas — **Rebel, Fort Jesup, Mansfield, Los Adaes** and **Fort St. Jean Baptiste** — that should be cluster marketed with the four state parks. Marketing as a cluster of complementing resources is recommended due to the remote location of some of the state commemorative areas. Los Adaes and Fort St. Jean Baptiste are both frontier forts from roughly the same historical time period. Each has a different story; therefore, efforts to develop unique interpretive programs are important. Mansfield, an important Civil War battle site, should become a resource of the same nature as **Port Hudson**. **Fort Jesup**, a pre-Civil War frontier fort of a different era from the others, could be promoted with **Mansfield** as a complementary site. **Rebel** has a unique identity. Its remoteness leads to a need for continued programming efforts and promotion of its country music theme.

**Oakland Plantation**, in Natchitoches Parish, is a significant site which represents the historic cotton industry in Louisiana. The site is currently being considered for acquisition by the National Park Service as part of the Cane River Creole National Historic Park. Because of the site's historical significance, the Office of State Parks should consider acquiring the site if the National Park Service does not.



*Fort Jesup State Commemorative Area*

**ACTION :** Continue the development of the state commemorative areas in the region as master planned and consider the acquisition of Oakland Plantation as a new state commemorative area.

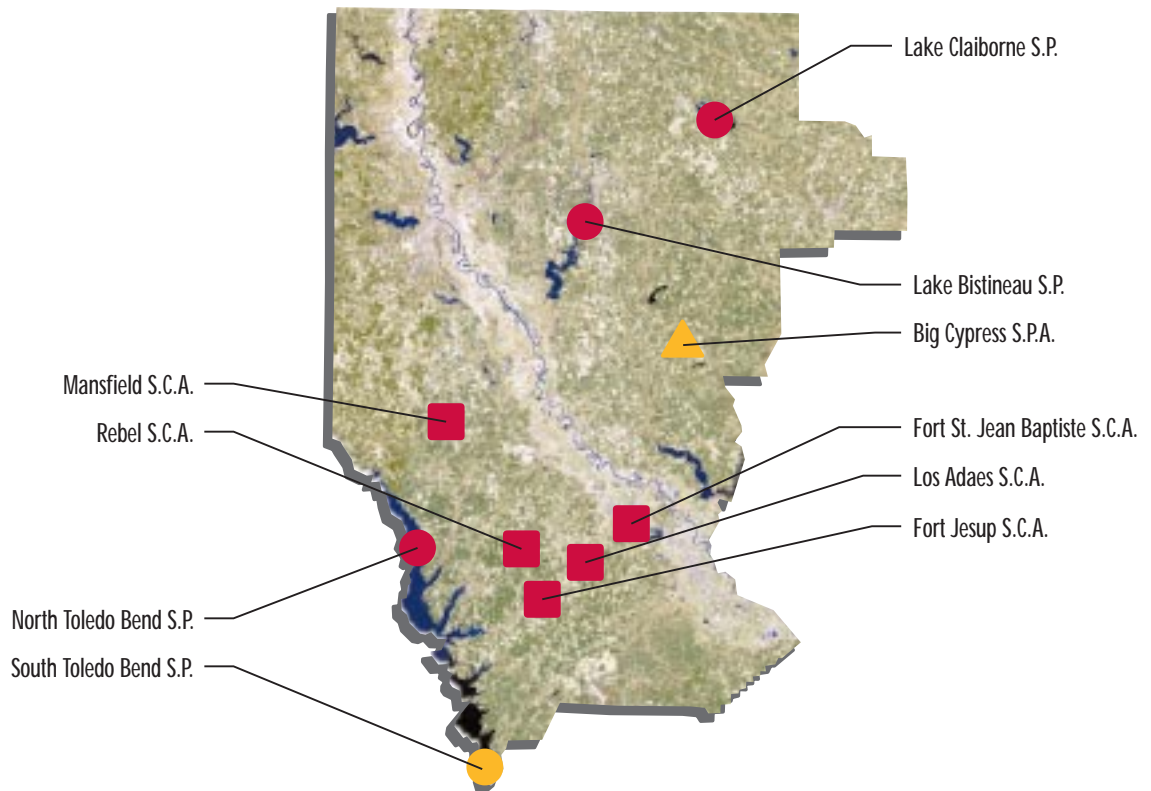
The estimated cost for the proposed development of existing state commemorative areas in Region Seven is **\$6,561,825**. The estimated acquisition and development cost for the potential new state commemorative area in Region Seven is **\$1,656,000**. The estimated total acquisition and development costs of the proposed improvements for the state commemorative areas, existing and proposed, in Region Seven is **\$8,217,825**.

## STATE PRESERVATION AREAS

The Action Plan recommends the development of one state preservation area in Region Seven during the next fifteen years. The **Big Cypress** site is an existing holding including the cypress tupelo swamp and bayhead swamp, as well as tertiary uplands. The site will provide interpretive areas and programming, as well as facilitate the management of the natural area.

**ACTION :** Develop the site as master planned with modifications as noted.

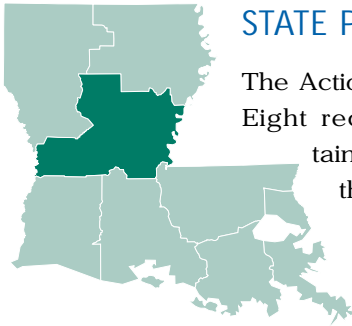
The estimated cost for completion of the recommendations at the proposed state preservation area in Region Six is **\$1,500,000**.



**Figure XI. - REGION SEVEN FACILITIES**

● ■ ▲ Existing  
● ■ ▲ Undeveloped or Proposed

## Region Eight



### STATE PARKS

The Action Plan for Region Eight recommends maintaining and improving the existing facilities in this region. The existing state parks (**Lake D'Arbonne**,

**Chemin-A-Haut**, **Lake Bruin**, and **Caney Creek Lake**) are somewhat removed from transportation corridors and, therefore, attempts must be made to make these parks destination stops. The development of creative programming and a common theme such as trails and support facilities are the most important recommendations. Camping is well supplied by the Office of State Parks and private facilities in the region. Thus, emphasis should be placed on the development of cabins at **Lake D'Arbonne** and **Caney Creek Lake State Parks** rather than on tent or trailer camping. Development of facilities to attract large groups to the parks is needed. Poverty Point State Commemorative Area's national significance as an archeological site is a natural tourism draw. **Lake D'Arbonne** and **Chemin-A-Haut State Parks** should provide support facilities not available or desirable at Poverty Point State Commemorative Area. Cluster programming and marketing activities should be instituted. **Lake Bruin State Park** should promote its quality fishing as a main draw and should cluster with Winter Quarters State Commemorative Area as a good day trip. **Caney Creek Lake State Park**, recently opened, will need to find its own identity and provide programming which will make it a draw to visitors.



*Winter Quarters State Commemorative Area*

**ACTION :** Supplement the existing sites in the region with needed facilities, and concentrate on programming and marketing activities which promote these as destination parks.

The Action Plan calls for no new state parks to be developed in this region over the next fifteen years.

*The estimated cost for completion of the recommendations at existing state parks in Region Eight is **\$25,760,000**. There are no new state parks proposed in Region Eight.*

### STATE COMMEMORATIVE AREAS

**Poverty Point** should be identified as one of the premier state commemorative areas in the Louisiana State Parks System for its national, historical and archeological significance. Funding for operations, programming and preservation should receive high priority. The acquisition of **Watson Brake Mounds** to develop as a state commemorative area representing a cultural and historical era of Pre-Poverty Point Native Americans is strongly recommended. Either the **Raffman Mounds** site or the **Prichards Landing** site should be acquired and developed as a state commemorative area representing the Late-Middle Native Americans. All of these sites should be promoted and developed as a package and should receive special attention



for acquisition and development due to their significance as national archeological sites.

**Winter Quarters** is a small site that is the only remaining example of an antebellum home along the Mississippi River in northeast Louisiana. The site is currently not large enough and does not have enough existing features to allow the needed interpretive facilities and programs desired for a state commemorative area. A new master plan and additional land acquisition is needed to bring this site to the standards of the other state commemorative areas. The Long Boundary Marker, which is currently owned by the Office of State Parks, does not meet the criteria for state commemorative area status and, therefore, should be left undeveloped.

**ACTION :** Continue the development of Poverty Point as master planned, develop Winter Quarters to expand the existing features and acquire Watson Brake and either Raffman Mounds or the Prichards Landing for development as a new state commemorative area linked with Poverty Point.

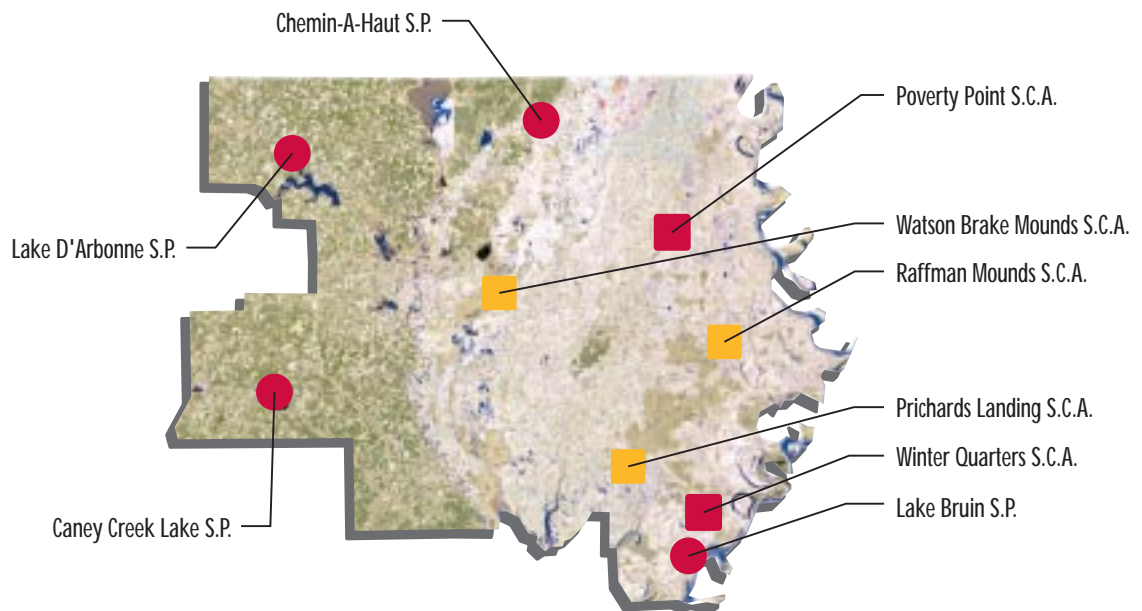


*Caney Creek Lake State Park*

The estimated cost for the proposed development of existing state commemorative areas in Region Eight is **\$807,300**. The estimated acquisition and development cost for the proposed new state commemorative areas in Region Eight is **\$4,442,750**. The estimated total acquisition and development cost of the proposed improvements for the state commemorative areas, existing and proposed, in Region Eight is **\$5,250,050**.

## STATE PRESERVATION AREAS

There are no existing or proposed state preservation areas in Region Eight.



**Figure XII. - REGION EIGHT FACILITIES**

● ■ ▲ Existing  
● ■ ▲ Undeveloped or Proposed



# Acknowledgements

The Louisiana State Parks Master Plan, 1997-2012, prepared by the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of State Parks, was financed jointly by the Office of State Parks and the U.S. Department of Interior, Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Honorable Mike Foster, Governor of Louisiana

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